COMMUNICATON BULLETIN

Web site: http://www.ehealth.vi.virginia.gov/.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

The following was contributed by Carol Pugh, Healthcare Data Consultant, VCU/MCV:

I came across these items as I was reading through the monthly e-ewsletter
for AcademyHealth ("the professional home for health services researchers,
policy analysts, and practitioners, and a leading, non-partisan resource
for the best in health research and policy." See http://www.academyhealth.org/).

The HSC item is probably of greatest interest to Subcommittee 2, but the
two NCHC reports may be relevant for the Task Force as a whole. We seem to be
approaching the EHR issue with a bit of a silo mentality, which is
understandable at this stage of the game. The NCHC reports do a nice job
of putting the technology issue in perspective. Enjoy!

» HSC Study: Most Medicare Outpatient Visits to Physicians with Limited
Clinical IT
Most Medicare fee-for-service outpatient visits (57 percent) in 2001 were
to physicians without significant information technology (IT) support for
patient care, according to a new study by the Center for Studying Health
System Change (HSC). See HSC Data Bulletin No. 30, Most Medicare Outpatient
Visits are to Physicians with Limited Clinical Information Technology.

» From the National Coalition on Health Care
The National Coalition on Health Care recently released two reports on
health care reform. Building a Better Health Care System: Specifications
for Reform lays out a number of options for reform that can be used as
guidelines for policymakers. Impacts of Health Care Reform: Projections of
Costs and Savings found that reform would cost much less than the status
quo.

ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS

"An electronic health record is any information relating to the past, present or future physical/mental health, or condition of an individual which resides in electronic system(s) used to capture, transmit, receive, store, retrieve, link and manipulate multimedia data for the primary purpose of providing health care and health-related services." (Murphy et al. 1999, p. 5)

   This definition specifically includes individual health status and condition to encompass preventative medicine, illness, and patient contributed information. It lists system functions to denote the broadest capability for using and linking information available through technology and communications. It uses the term multimedia to cover the scope of electronic tools currently available. Text, coded data, voice, and video may all be delivered through a multimedia workstation.

MEETING NEWS

 RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC   Today, more than 500 health communities have come together to form a collaboration, a dramatic uptick from the 18 communities in place in 2004. Physicians have long been collaborators. But electronic exchange of proprietary and confidential information poses significant business and legal challenges. Learn how to build collaboration in your community, participate in an audio conference from your desk, and hear how the seasoned insiders build and sustain successful collaborations.

In a 90-minute audio conference, you will learn their strategies for the following:

   Who did you invite into the collaboration? Who wasn't invited?

   What were your goals?

   What were some of the professional challenges?

   Who's responsible for the compatibility of privacy and security policies and procedures?

   What were the Stark and Anti-kickback threats and liability exposures?

   How did you negotiate the group's software licensing agreement?

   What's the best corporate structure for a collaboration?

   What were the costs to form the collaboration?

   How do you move forward when barriers threaten to derail the community?

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Health lawyers

Physician Practices

Academic Medical Centers

State and Local Health Agencies

State Medical Societies

Healthcare Executives

Practice Management Consultants

Self-insured employers

EHR Vendors

Pharmaceutical Marketing and Sales Reps

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WHEN: September 15, 2005 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time

WHERE: Your Office

REGISTRATION

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